



Illustration by John H. Rumely;
From 'Vascular Plants of the Pacific Northwest'

BIDENS BECKII **BECK WATER-MARIGOLD**

Beck Water-marigold is an aquatic perennial with lower stems that are submerged and upper portions usually emergent. Submerged leaves are opposite, sessile, and divided into numerous thread-like segments. The lance-shaped, emergent leaves are sessile, opposite, and 2-4 cm long with sharply toothed margins. Solitary flower heads are borne on the ends of the emergent stems. Each head has 2 series of involucral bracts, with the outer being larger and leafier than the inner bracts. The yellow ray flowers are 1-2 cm long, and the disk flowers are also yellow. Achenes are 10-14 mm long and nearly round in cross-section, with 3-6 long, slender, barbed awns at the tops. Flowering in late August-September.

BIDENS BECKII is the only truly aquatic member of the Asteraceae in our area, distinguished by its dimorphic emergent and submerged leaves. However, it does not flower and produce emergent leaves each year, and superficially resembles *MYRIOPHYLLUM* and other submerged aquatics.